HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR RADIO (Original Scripts)

Series 1. Episode 12. The Monte Carlo Rally

TONY HANCOCK

with

MOIRA LISTER, BILL KERR & SIDNEY JAMES

in

"HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR"

No. 12

with

RAYMOND BAXTER

BRIAN JOHNSTON

KENNETH WILLIAMS

INCIDENTAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY WALLY STOTT & RECORDED BY THE BBC AUGMENTED REVUE ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY HARRY RABINOWITZ

SCRIPT: RAY GALTON & ALAN SIMPSON

ANNOUNCER: ADRIAN WALLER

PRODUCED BY - DENNIS MAIN WILSON

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CONTINUITY:
(LIVE) THIS IS THE BBC LIGHT PROGRAMME

GRAMS: (ON RED LIGHT) "HANCOCK OPENING" - PART 1

ADRIAN: We present Tony Hancock, with Moira Lister, Bill Kerr and Sidney James in….

GRAMS: "HANCOCK OPENING" - PART 2

TONY: (ALL EXCITED - BREATH) "Hancock's Half Hour".

GRAMS: "HANCOCK OPENING" - PART 3

ADRIAN: (TERRIBLY BRITISH) This week the whole of Europe is tensed with excitement - following the course of that exhausting and nerve racking endurance test….the Monte Carlo Rally. This year we British can hold our heads high because leading the cream of our steely-nerved racing drivers, is none other than Captain Anthony "Wheels" Hancock himself. Let us take you back to Monday's memorable start from Glasgow.

GRAMS: "HANCOCK THEME" (UP & UNDER)

EFFECTS: (HUNDRED CARS REVVING UP)

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTON) Well, good evening everybody, this is Brian Johnston reporting from Glasgow, the starting point for the British competitors in this year's edition of the most grueling test for man and machine in the motoring calendar… the famous Monte Carlo Rally. The hundred or so cars have been lined up for some time - awaiting the starter's signal. It really is a wonderful sight, almost every car

manufacturer in Britain has entered his latest model driven by some of the finest drivers in the world. I can see Ken Wharton in his Daimler, and there's Raymond Baxter in his hotted up Ford Zephyr..and yes, Reg Parnell driving one of the Aston Martin DB 2's...all tensed up waiting for the signal to start. Ah - I have just learnt the reason for the delay in starting. Apparently there is one competitor still to arrive...number One-o-one, Britain's top racing driver, Captain Anthony "Wheels" Hancock, the sensational winner of last year's Grand Prix de Grimsby for foot operated soapboxes. Captain Hancock, in his privately entered Sid James special, was last seen a few miles south of Glasgow, so we should see him come tearing up to the starting line any minute now….

CROSSFADE TO

EFFECTS: (VERY OLD WRECK OF A CAR BACKFIRING ALONG)

TONY: Come on now, push. Push. Harder. Get your shoulder behind it Moira. Dig your heels in there's a good girl. Push Sid. Come on Bill, get your back into it. What's the matter with you.

BILL: (PUFFING) What a car this is. We've had to push it half way from London.

SIDNEY: You expect to have to push a car occasionally.

BILL: Yeah, but not downhill.

TONY: Stop moaning and push. If we don't hurry up they'll start without us.

MOIRA: Oh Tony, why don't we give up. We'll never get there.

TONY: Give up? "Wheels" Hancock give up? Never. For the last ten Monte Carlo Rallies me and my car have been on that starting line.

SIDNEY: And stayed there.

TONY: And stayed....ha ha..jolly good. Now belt up before I backfire all over you.

MOIRA: Tony please let's rest for a minute, I can't push this thing any further.

TONY: Oh alright. Honestly, I don't know what's wrong with the young girls of today. Ask 'em to push a car for a few miles and they're finished.

MOIRA: A few miles? We left London with twelve gallons of petrol and we've still got eleven and a half.

TONY: Oh, we've used half a gallon have we?

BILL: Yeah, and that evaporated.

TONY: Look, don't blame me - it's Sid's car, not mine. I'm just driving it.

BILL: I don't understand it Sid. What made you enter this car in the first place?

SIDNEY: I'll tell you. The winner of the Monte Carlo Rally gets one million, two hundred thousand francs, see and -

TONY: Wait a minute, wait a minute. (TO HIMSELF) One million, two hundred thousand francs....twenty five ackers to the yen, four yens, one rupee, two rupees make one sou, sou's are better than anna's, three anna's.....that reminds me, I haven't heard from Elsie lately...never mind. Let's see, point six of a rouble, divide by the current market value of the kroner, plus pi-r-squared over six million lira..equals the price of a pound of tea, add three pounds of Spanish pesetas, fry slowly in hot fat, serve in paper and...no. That is...throw a silver dollar down upon the ground, fifteen marks one centime, centimes into gilda's, a quick piastre round the corner with a couple of pfennigs, makes...

BILL: Tub I -

TONY: Just a minute, there's one more little detail to work out.

SIDNEY: What?

TONY: How much is one million, two hundred thousand francs worth?

SIDNEY: I don't know..but it's a lot of rhino..and I'm going to win it.

BILL: Listen, this this heap wouldn't win the Rally if we started in Monte Carlo.

SIDNEY: Don't you be so sure Billy boy. What happens when all the cars reach Dover?

BILL: They go on board the Ferry to get to France.

SIDNEY: Exactly. And Uncle Charlie'd never let me down.

MOIRA: Who's Uncle Charlie?

SIDNEY: He drives the Ferry. And I hope they all enjoy it.

BILL: What?

SIDNEY: Their winter cruise to Iceland.

TONY: Why that's the dirtiest trick I've ever heard of.

SIDNEY: Yeah, I'm rather proud of it myself.

MOIRA: Well we'd better get a move on or we're not going to get there for the start.

TONY: Right. Which way do we go?

MOIRA: I don't know. Ask that lady there.

TONY: Excuse me madam.

KENNETH: (SCOTS) Aye, whit can I do forrrr ye?

TONY: Do you know the way to Glasgow?

KENNETH: Aye I do, thanks very much. Goodday.

TONY: Come back. Look, we're English...

KENNETH: Oh ye puir wee laddie, whit a terrible thing tae happen tae a mon.

TONY: Yes...well we're lost.

KENNETH: Forsaken is more the worrrd.

TONY: Look, I want to get to Glasgow.

KENNETH: After whit they did to you at the Empire?

TONY: Which is the quickest way?

KENNETH: Well let me see noo. Glasgy. I have nae been there since I was a wee laddie. I'm afraid I might have forgotten how to get there. I've got a terrible memory. I'm always forgetting things.

SIDNEY: Well think, think.

KENNETH: Aye I'm trying. No, it's nae good. I'll never remember it the noo. I'll hae to hae something tae jog ma memory.

EFFECTS: (CLINK OF COIN IN TIN MUG)

KENNETH: Turn right at the crossroads, carry on for half a mile, first left, first left again, over the level crossing, then you...you, er...then you...

EFFECTS: (CHINK OF COIN IN TIN MUG)

KENNETH: Carry on for two miles, left at the signpost, past the telephone box, over the railway bridge, and then it's ...er...it's er...it's um...

EFFECTS: (CHINK OF COIN IN TIN MUG)

KENNETH: First right, first right again, straight on past Angus MacPherson's distillery, past Ian MacIntosh's distillery, past Duncan MacFee's distillery, past Sandy MacTavish's distillery, past Andrew MacDuff's distillery, past...

TONY: Is this the quickest way?

KENNETH: Nae...but it's the finest scenery in Scotland.

TONY: Right, well thank you very much. I think we'll be alright now, hoots. We'll be awa. Goodbye. Long may your lum reek. it's a braw bricht moonlicht nicht on Flodden Moor, Bannockburn to you too.....Hooray for Bonnie Prince Charlie, good old Robbie Burns, Home Rule for Scotland, and I love porridge in the Springtime.

GRAMS: LINK

EFFECTS: (CARS REVVING UP)

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTON) Hallo listeners, Brian Johnstone here again, and I must apologise for the delay in starting this Monte Carlo Rally of 1955..but we are still waiting for competitor number One-o-one, Captain "Wheels" Hancock to arrive on the starting grid. He's three hours overdue now and...wait a minute...I do believe ...yes, here he is at long last. I can just see an empty car coming round the corner, closely followed by Hancock and his three assistants. The Rally should get underway now as soon as Hancock gets his car into position. He's just going over to have a word with the official starter.

TONY: Morning, sorry we're late. Where do you want me to put the car?

STARTER: I'm afraid there must be some mistake. The London to Brighton was run several weeks ago.

TONY: Highly amusing..but this car's entered for the Monte Carlo Rally. You've got me entry there.

STARTER: Let me see. What name?

TONY: Ancock. Haitch..hay..hen..c..ho..c..k. The haitch is hoptional.

STARTER: Hancock. Ah yes. Captain "Wheels" Hancock.

TONY: That's me.

STARTER: Born in 1896.

TONY: That's the date of the car.

STARTER: Oh yes, of course. I have the details here. An 1896 Modified A.J.Y. Special. A.J.Y.?

TONY: Assembled from the junk yards.

STARTER: I see. What rating is she?

TONY: Six cylinders, overhead valve engine, twin carburettors, straight through exhaust, special compression head, supercharged, with a capacity of 3,000 cubic centimetres developing a hundred and sixty brake horsepower, plus a special accessory of our own design which really gets her going.

STARTER: What's that?

TONY: A tow rope.

STARTER: Now then...just a few Custom formalities. What equipment will you be taking with you?

TONY: Me co-driver Mr. Bill "Spanners" Kerr, a radio, fog lights, spare tyres and me heater.

STARTER: I don't see any heater.

TONY: Moira, stand up for the gentleman. Oh and the owner of the car, Mr. Sid James will also be travelling with us. A most valuable member of me crew.

STARTER: What does he do?

TONY: He's in charge of the tin tacks and the broken glass.

STARTER: Well, here's your timetable. You have to be in Dover by tonight.

TONY: Do the trolleybuses run all the way down there?

STARTER: No, of course not.

TONY: Oh. (CALLS) Sid, you can ditch them two poles we won't be needing them.

STARTER: Well I think we can get started now. (CALLS) Alright start your engines.

EFFECTS: (DOZENS OF POWERFUL ENGINES REVVING UP)

TONY: Hello, that's a powerful looking job in front of us.

EFFECTS: (VERY LOUD POWERFUL ENGINE STARTS. TWO LOUD BURSTS FROM EXHAUST)

TONY: Nip out and get me hat.

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTON) And now listeners, everything's in readiness for this mass start. All the cars are revving up, waiting for the signal to go...any minute now...and yes....they're off.

EFFECTS: (DOZENS OF CARS TEARING OFF)

TONY: (YELLS OVER NOISE) Dover....here we come.

GRAMS: IMMEDIATE LINK

EFFECTS: (STARTER - ENGINE WON'T START - BACKFIRES)

SIDNEY: Well, the Rally's been on for three hours now.

TONY: Yes.

SIDNEY: Don't you think it's about time we <u>started</u>?

EFFECTS: (STARTER - ENGINE FIRES -OLD FASHIONED TICKING OVER)

TONY: That's it! Listen to her purring away.

BILL: Well, what are we waiting for.

TONY: There's something stopping the wheels from moving forward.

MOIRA: Oh yes I can see what it is.

TONY: What?

MOIRA: They've put two coats of paint on the starting line.

BILL: Wait a minute...we're moving. Yes. We're moving. Quick, let the clutch in.

EFFECTS: (CAR MOVES OFF. BACKFIRING. THE LOT)

TONY: At last - we're off. Dover...here we come.

GRAMS: LINK IMMEDIATELY

EFFECTS: (CAR CHUGGING ALONG)

TONY: Ah, this is better. We're making good time now. Six hours since the Rally started.

SIDNEY: It's getting dark. Where are we?

TONY: I'm not sure. Bill, have a look at that sign.

BILL: O.K. I.....oh.

TONY: What does it say?

BILL: Sauchiehall Street.

TONY: We'll have to do better than this Hancock.

TONY: Don't worry. I'll get this car to Dover tonight if it kills me.

GRAMS: "HANCOCK'S A BUSY BEE"

CROSSFADE TO

EFFECTS: (TRAIN RATTLING ALONG AT SPEED. CORRIDOR DOOR SLIDES OPEN.)

ALAN: Tickets please.

TONY: Four singles to Dover please. Oh and you'll find a car in the Guard's van.

GRAMS: LINK UP & TO END

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTONE) This is Brian Johnstone reporting once again on the progress made so far in the Monte Carlo Rally. We've just heard that the first driver to reach Dover was Captain Anthony "Wheels" Hancock in his 1896 Modified A.J.Y. Special. He arrived two hours in front of Ian and Pat Appleyard in their Jaguar.

MAYOR: Congratulations Captain Hancock on breaking the record for the Glasgow to Dover run. What a fantastic speed you must have kept up.

TONY: Ah well, it's downhill all the way ent it?

MAYOR: It's not you know.

TONY: Well it is for us, we've got big back wheels.

BILL: Come on Tub, we'd better get some sleep. The Ferry leaves for Boulogne first thing in the morning.

TONY: You go ahead Bill, I think I ought to stay with the car all night. You know what these Rallies are. A lot at stake. Someone tries to tamper with it.

BILL: Let 'em try, they can only improve it.

MOIRA: I agree with Bill, let's get some sleep. Er...you did book the hotel rooms didn't you Tony?

TONY: Well er...you see...well it's like this... I thought that...

SIDNEY: Just tell us where the hotel is, I 'm tired.

BILL: And me.

TONY: Yes. Well you see I decided that...well you know...we've got a long way to go and...well...after all, we'll be in France tomorrow...and well France is very expensive..and I thought that...well, we'll need all the money we've got and...well hotels cost a lot and so..well I thought it would be best to sort of...well you know I...

MOIRA: Bill.

BILL: Yeah?

MOIRA: Get the tent up.

SIDNEY: Yeah, we should be able to get four of us in there alright and...

MOIRA: Er...aren't you forgetting, I'm the opposite gender to you boys. We're not in France yet. Outside.....go on...

TONY: But Moira, where are we going to sleep?

MOIRA: You should have thought of that before. Goodnight boys. Sweet dreams.

SIDNEY: Well. Where are <u>we</u> going to kip?

BILL: There's only one thing for it. Under the car.

SIDNEY: Are you kidding? A few spots of rain on it, it'd collapse.

TONY: Rain? Collapse? Don't be ridiculous. Come on, under the car. Let's get some sleep.

MOIRA: (OFF MIKE) Goodnight boys.

BILL, SID, TONY: (AD LIB GOODNIGHTS)

GRAMS: SLEEPY LINK

EFFECTS: (HEAVY CLAP OF THUNDER. POURING RAIN. CREAK & TERRIFIC CRASH AS CAR COLLAPSES)

GRAMS: LINK

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTON) Good morning everybody, Brian Johnston reporting once again on the Monte Carlo Rally. All the cars arrived safely at Dover last night and this morning are being loaded onto the Ferry for the crossing to France. As listeners already know, the BBC's motor racing correspondent Raymond Baxter, is actually taking part in the Rally and is recording up to the minute eyewitness accounts from inside his car. And so for the first of these reports, over to Dover and Raymond Baxter.

EFFECTS: (DOCKSIDE ATMOSPHERE)

GRAMS: (RAYMOND BAXTER) And here at Dover the scene is of tremendous activity. The cars are all safely on board now, with one exception. Captain "Wheels" Hancock's 1896 A.J.Y. Special. I understand there was a rather unfortunate accident involving this car during last night's rain storm, when the car collapsed upon three men who were sheltering under it. And now I can see the crew of the A.J.Y. Special going on board the Ferry. Miss Moira Lister walking up the gangplank followed by six men carrying three stretchers. The reassembled A.J.Y. Special is being swung aboard the Ferry by one of the huge cranes that line the dockside. There she goes, just leaving the ground now, up past the lower deck, up, up she goes, high into the air and...

EFFECTS: (LOUD DOING AS CRANE CABLE SNAPS. TERRIFIC CRASH AS CAR HITS THE DECK)

GRAMS: ...Oh bad luck, the cable snapped. But don't worry, the car is alright. Luckily it landed safely on top of the three stretchers that had just been laid out on the top deck. And now, as we slowly slide away from the dockside on our way to France and Monte Carlo, I say goodbye until my next report.

GRAMS: "VICTORY AT SEACOCK"

EFFECTS: (WASH OF WAVES)

MOIRA: Well boys, we should be docking at Boulogne in an hour or so. How are you feeling now?

TONY: (MUMBLES INCOHERENTLY)

MOIRA: Tony, it's rude to speak to a lady with a wheel in your mouth.

BILL: Moira, get this car off us...let's get out of these stretchers and get all these bandages off. We look like we've just been dug out of a pyramid.

MOIRA: But aren't you hurt?

SIDNEY: No - just a few scratches.

MOIRA: Then why all the bandages?

SIDNEY: We were found by a troop of Girl Guides and they went mad. All I've got is a cut finger...and look at me. Both legs in splints, one arm in a sling and my neck wrapped up in plaster.

MOIRA: But what about poor Tony? He doesn't look too well...his head swathed in bandages.

SIDNEY: Yeah, well they couldn't find anything wrong with him, so they all belted him with their poles.

BILL: Say Sid, what about the car? It looks in pretty bad shape.

SIDNEY: Yeah. We've got to repair it before we get to France. Hurry up, we haven't got much time.

BILL: We're going to have a job. Half the pieces are missing.

SIDNEY: Don't worry about that. We'll have to pinch the parts from somewhere. Grab anything you can lay your hands on. Anything we can possibly use. Don't matter what it is or where you get it from..we've got to get this car put together somehow.

GRAMS: LINK

EFFECTS: (DOCKSIDE ATMOSPHERE & CARS DRIVING ABOUT)

GRAMS: (RAYMOND BAXTER) Hallo again. Raymond Baxter reporting, this time from Boulogne ready to begin stage two of the Monte Carlo Rally. The cars are pouring off the Ferry onto French soil...and there goes Captain Hancock's A.J.Y. Special, looking somehow different with her twin funnels, streamlined main mast and underslung lifeboats...and I can see Hancock standing on the bridge warning everybody to keep

clear of the propellers. A really magnificent sight as she slowly drives into the Customs shed for examination.

MOIRA: Now Tony, are you sure you can handle the French Customs?

TONY: What? The lad? I'll have you know that je parle the Frongsay aussi bon que anyone else.

MOIRA: Well you know what the French are - and you know what Customs Officials are...

TONY: Vous just pipez down un peu and leave it to the konnossers. (FLUENT FRENCH) Ah bonjour Monsieur le Bougrier

KENNETH: Bonjour Monsieur, avez vous quelque chose a déclaré?

TONY: Mais non - je suis simplement un chaffeur dans le Monte Carlo.

KENNETH: Très bien monsieur - maid je dois vous avertir que - si vous avez avec vous des narcotiques - des bijoux - du tabac - des animaux - ou des armes a feu - ou, vous comprenez des choses semblables - vous devez les déclarer.

TONY: Ecoutez! Je vous ai assuré - et je vous en prie de me croire - c'est la vérité - je n'ai absolument rien a cacher.

KENNETH: C'est vous le dites monsieur.

TONY: Bien. Merci mille fois. (CONFIDENTIAL) Savez-vous c'est tellement agréable de causer avec des douaniers amicables. L'idce de ce qui m'arriverait chez nous....<u>me</u> <u>répugne</u>.

BILL: What did he say?

TONY: Never mind about him - what did <u>I</u> say?

MOIRA: Tony, that's no way to get through. Let <u>me</u> try their French Customs. (SEDUCTIVE) Bonjour mon Capitaine.

KENNETH: (LOW SEXY CHEVALIER GROWL)

TONY: Well, I know what <u>that</u> means.

KENNETH: Oh - quelle chame. Quelle beauté - quelle élégance...quelle femme. Je t'aime aujourd'hui plus qu'hier - et moins que demain. On peut s' rencontrée?.....À propos...t'a une telephone?

MOIRA: Mais out. Shepherds Bush sept quatro six cinq.

TONY: Hallo.

KENNETH: Au revoir...cherie. (SEVERAL KISSES)

BILL: What did all that mean?

MOIRA: Roughly translated it means we can go straight through. Come on.

KENNETH: Ah, amour, amour, amour, amour, amour, amour.

TONY: You're not having any more mate, that's your lot. Come children...to Monte Carlo.

GRAMS: LINK

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

ADRIAN: Lille.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

BILL: Liege.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

KENNETH: Venloe.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

TONY: If anybody's having difficulty following this bit, please turn to the map on page of the Radio Times.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

ADRIAN: Amsterdam.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

ADRIAN: The Hague.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

BILL: Rheims.

EFFECTS: (CARS ROARING PAST)

KENNETH: Paris.

EFFECTS: (LOAD OF CARS PULLING UP WITH SQUEALING OF BRAKES)

TONY: Well, that's all half of 'em came on the Rally for anyway.

GRAMS: LINK

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTONE) Good evening listeners, Brian Johnstone again. Here is the latest news of the Monte Carlo Rally. The halfway stage has been reached..and I'm very pleased to say that so far the British contingent has kept fairly well together...but the most amazing thing is that leading the field is none other than "Wheels" Hancock. Yes, that fifty-nine year old car of his is holding it's own against high powered up to date sports models from all over the world. They just can't seem to pass him. I'd give anything to know just how he's managing it.

QUICK FADE IN

EFFECTS: (OLD CAR CHUGGING ALONG)

TONY: Alright Sid, we've crossed the bridge.

SIDNEY: Right. Blow it up. And when we get round the corner we'll start another landslide. Who's driving the car directly behind us?

MOIRA: Let's see. Number twenty four. Armstrong Siddeley driven by Air Vice Marshal Pathfinder Bennett.

TONY: Right - turn the signpost round..that's one path he won't find. Here he comes.

EFFECTS: (CAR ROARS PAST)

TONY: My word, he's going at a fast lick ain't he? Still I think he'll like Turkey when he gets there.

BILL: Hey fellas, something's gone wrong. There's a car behind us, got past all the traps we laid. He must have taken a short cut.

SIDNEY: Who is he Moira?

MOIRA: Just a minute. Forty three. Good heavens, it's the car the BBC Commentator's in - Raymond Baxter.

TONY: We'll have him. Sid - get the smoke bombs out.

EFFECTS: (FAST MODERN CAR GOING ALONG)

GRAMS: (RAYMOND BAXTER) Raymond Baxter again, this time speaking to you from the road about ninety miles Southeast of Paris...heading towards the mountainous stage of the Rally. I understand that we are now lying second on the road to "Wheels" Hancock, whose car I can see not half a mile ahead of me. We seem to be catching up on him pretty quickly and...just a minute. Well this is uncanny. A clear blue sky and a nice bright sun one minute and now suddenly a thick fog has just sprung up. Well that's the most extraordinary thing. Believe it or not, I can't see more than two feet in front of the car. We've got to be very careful here. According to my road map we should be approaching a narrow wooden bridge spanning a deep mountain stream. I can't see a thing..but we must be somewhere need it. Perhaps if I were to lean my head out of the window and...

EFFECTS: (TERRIFIC SPLASH)

TONY: (PAUSE) Put the bridge back Sid.

GRAMS: LINK

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTONE) (TERRIBLY INTENSE) Good evening listeners, Brian Johnstone once again. Well now we're at the last stages of the Monte Carlo Rally. We shan't be able to give you any more eyewitness accounts because, unfortunately we seem to have lost contact with Raymond Baxter. His last recording picked up by the BBC didn't give much information. He said simply.....

EFFECTS: (LOUD SNEEZE)

GRAMS: (BRIAN JOHNSTONE) Thank you Raymond Baxter. Meanwhile as the Rally nears it's completion, we have just been informed by the Air Ministry of a sudden change in weather conditions over the latter stages of the route. There is a fierce blizzard blowing in the Alpes Maritimes mountains just North of Monte Carlo..through which the leaders should now be passing.

CROSSFADE TO

EFFECTS: (BLIZZARD. TONY'S CAR CHUGGING ALONG)

TONY: It's no good. We can't go on, we'll have to stop.

SIDNEY: We can't stop now. Another two hours and we'll be in Monte Carlo. There's one million two hundred thousand francs at stake. Keep driving.

TONY: But I can't see. All this snow.

SIDNEY: You've got windscreen wipers haven't you?

TONY: (NARKED) Yes, but they're not much good when you haven't got a windscreen.

MOIRA: Ooh Tony, I'm cold.

TONY: Don't you start.

MOIRA: But I'm freezing.

TONY: I'm not surprised, sitting there in a thin summer dress. That's the trouble with the women of today -

MOIRA: I know but...

TONY: ..They walk around with hardly anything on, then they moan about the cold. You never hear us men moan. We're sensible. We dress to suit the weather.

MOIRA: Yes, but Tony....

TONY: I can't understand you. You've got a big thick fur coat, a travelling rug, two duffle coats and half a dozen cardigans and a pixie hood. Why don't you put them on?

MOIRA: I haven't got the heart, you look so nice in them.

TONY: Ah well be fair, I need 'em more than you Moira. You know when it gets chilly I'm liable to have one of me turns.

BILL: Just look at this weather. It's getting worse. The snow must be a foot deep.

TONY: Ooh - much more than that!!

BILL: I'm talking about <u>inside</u> the car.

TONY: I told you we should have got one with a roof on it. Look at us. A bowler hat and a pipe each and the kids'll start slinging snowballs at us.

SIDNEY: You keep your eyes on the road Hancock. The surface is like glass...and there's a four thousand foot drop on one side, smack into the chasm.

TONY: I wouldn't worry. Even if this car did go over the edge, I bet we'd have to get out half way down and push it.

BILL: I wonder how the other cars are getting on.

SIDNEY: I should think they're all in the Mediterranean by now.

TONY: What do you mean?

SIDNEY: Well, a pot of paint, a few deft strokes with the old brush, it's amazing what you can do with some of them dangerous bend signs.

MOIRA: You'd better go carefully along here Tony - it's getting worse.

BILL: Yeah, look at those mountains up there. There must be a million tons of snow on that lot.

MOIRA: I was reading about that the other day. Do you know that a sudden violent noise could bring that lot down on top of us?

TONY: Really?

MOIRA: Yes. It's the echo...it vibrates round the valley and causes an avalanche.

TONY: Don't worry, it won't happen here. You'd have to kick up a horrible din to bring that lot down. Ah well. (HUMS TO HIMSELF)

BILL: Let's have the radio on.

EFFECTS: (CLICK)

ADRIAN: This is the BBC Light programme.

ALAN: Wakey, Wakey!!!

EFFECTS: (OPENING OF BILLY COTTON BAND SHOW - "WAKEY WAKEY" - "SOMEBODY STOLE MY GIRL". THEN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST LANDSLIDE. GIVE IT THE WORKS)

TONY: I think it speaks for itself doesn't it.

GRAMS: LINK

BILL: Well, that's the worst landslide I've ever seen. Lucky that rescue party came along and dug us out, we would have still been there.

MOIRA: Has anybody seen Tony?

SIDNEY: Yeah, he fell over the edge of the cliff. They're still looking for him.

MOIRA: Oh look, there he is, chatting to that man who's trying to get him up.

SLIGHT FADE IN

TONY: ...Of course this isn't the first time I've been hanging from a cliff top by the tips of me fingers.
ALAN: I didn't think it was.
TONY: Well you could tell by the cool calm, professional way I was screaming me head off before you came along. Course I've been mountaineering all me life. Ooh yes, even when I was in the Army I was over the hill most of the time. But the time I've got in mind was on the Everest climb.
ALAN: You've climbed Everest?
TONY: Yes, when I was out in India. Every morning before breakfast. I know what you're going to say now. I can tell you the exact words you're going to say. Hunt and Hillary. That's what you were going to say weren't you?
ALAN: As a matter of fact I was.
TONY: I knew you were. They all do. Makes you sick. I was at the top of Everest when they were just a gleam in their father's eyes.
ALAN: Are you sure?
TONY: Listen...you've heard about them great big footprints they found in the snow up there. They were mine. Cos that's not the story they give out. Oh dear me no. They didn't let on - cos people would have realised that I'd been up there before them. As it is nobody knows that. Course I realise now that the biggest mistake I made was not sticking a flag in the top.
ALAN: You should have done that.
TONY: I know. I left me <u>lunch</u> up there. But that's gone. I went back and had a look. There's not a sign I was up there now. Except me footprints. Of course I know what the trouble there was. Somebody didn't want me to get a knighthood. Well anyway....take your spiked boots off me fingers will you.
ALAN: Sorry.
TONY: It's alright, just thought I'd mention it. Well anyway, the time I'm telling you about was...let me see, it'd be the tenth time I climbed it. It was the Thursday....I said to my mate Harry...you don't know Harry do you? Nice bloke. He took to drink in the end. It was the making of him. So anyway, I said to Harry..."Do you fancy Everest today?" So he said "Well it'll make a day out, won't it?" So we packed some sandwiches and off we went. Well...I'd got to...oooh, must have been about thirty two thousand feet.
ALAN: Everest isn't as tall as that.
TONY: It was then. Me and Harry have worn it down, running up and down it so many times. Well there I was...dangling over a precipice, hanging onto a rope that was tied round Harry who was standing on the top...when he suddenly says..."Here, look at the time! It's a quarter to seven". I'd got to go home, cos he won't miss the Archers for anything, Harry you know, got the Award. I said you can't go home and leave me dangling over the edge of this cliff. Come and help me up. Well I don't know whether it was his conscience..but his whole attitude changed. He blushed with shame. I've never seen a man more ashamed of himself. He knelt down on the edge, looked down at me

and he said..."Forgive me Tony, I was being very selfish. I realise that you've got to get down as well as me". So do you know what he did? He cut the rope.

BILL: Hey Tub, hurry up. They've dug our car out - let's get a move on.

TONY: Coming. Cheerio, I'll see you next week.

ALAN: Well I hope so. I look forward to our little chats.

TONY: Well so do I - cos you're the only one who understands me. Goodbye. Right, come children. To Monte Carlo and the prize money.

GRAMS: LINK

EFFECTS: (CROWDS CHEERING. CAR CHUGGING ALONG. FRENCH BRASS BAND PLAYING)

SIDNEY: Blimey, look! The whole town's turned out to welcome us.

TONY: Where's Mr. Carlo?

SIDNEY: Who?

TONY: Monte Carlo, the bloke who owns the place.

MOIRA: Isn't it wonderful. First home in the Monte Carlo Rally.

BILL: Yeah, and here comes the Mayor with the prize money.

KENNETH: (FRENCHMAN) Ah mes amis, congratulations. What a magnificent achievement. You have won the Monte Carlo Rally of 1955...and I have great pleasure in presenting you with this cheque for one million, two hundred thousand francs....and here it is....here it is...(ON ECHO)....here it is....(CHANGES TO SCOTS ACCENT)....here it is...here it is...(ECHO OUT)....here it is.

TONY: Oh.....oh I'm sorry, I was miles away.

KENNETH: Well here it is.

TONY: Oh yes, the cheque for one million, two hundred thousand francs.

KENNETH: No - a ticket for parking. You've been stuck here on this starting line for four days now.

TONY: Officer, I can explain....the starter's gone wrong...I.....I'm sorry...look it's not my fault....I won't bother you again.....have an 'aggis.

KENNETH: (WITH TONY) Yes, we know all about that - just come along with me. Name and address etc.

GRAMS: CLOSING THEME (UP & UNDER)

ADRIAN: You have been listening to "Hancock's Half Hour", featuring the lad himself, with Moira Lister, Bill Kerr, Sidney James and Kenneth Williams. Incidental music was composed by Wally Stott and recorded by the BBC Augmented Revue Orchestra, conducted by Harry Rabinowitz. The script was written by Ray Galton & Alan Simpson - and the programme, which was recorded, was produced by Dennis Main Wilson.

GRAMS: "HANCOCK THEME" UP & TO END

(SEGUE)

GRAMS: PLAYOUT - TO END